

Approved September 22, 2016

**Town Meeting Coordinating Committee  
Minutes for September 16, 2016, 3:30 – 5:30 pm  
Bangs Center, Lower Meeting Room**

**Present:** Peggy Roberts, Mary Streeter, Alan Powell, Chris Riddle, Barbara Ford, Patricia Holland

**Absent:** Jacqueline Maidana

Peggy Roberts called the meeting to order at 3:45 PM.

1. **Public Comment:** None.
2. **Subcommittee:** Chris Riddle reported on recommendations from TMCC's subcommittee concerning the Charter Commission and Town Meeting. The subcommittee asked that TMCC review four possible changes to TM rules:
  - A. The moderator could end debate on a vote for a previous question after 40 minutes. This action was proposed by the current moderator. Our response: Peggy felt the time should be shorter; Barbara said establishing when the timer would start needed to be firmed up; Mary proposed a 40-min. limit for each section of the operating budget and capital budget.
  - B. Require 25 signatures on a petition article for both Spring and Fall meetings, rather than the present rule of 100 signatures on Fall petition articles, 25 on Spring articles. Our response: Barbara preferred requiring 100 signatures for both meetings; Mary supported 25 for both; Alan supported the present rule.
  - C. Require that TM members raise cards--red (oppose), green (favor), or white (no position)--when asking to speak at TM. Our response: Peggy noted the problems of color-blind people and suggested cards also be cross-hatched or some other pattern imposed on the colors. No one objected to the proposal.
  - D. Establish timely deadlines for town meeting preparation. Mary suggested the announcement of the start of TM be five weeks before its start. All supported this length of time on the grounds that the preparation of precinct meetings, the town-wide review of articles, workshops on zoning or budgets, and bus trips require this much planning time.
3. **Town Manager Meeting:** Peggy and Mary reported very favorably on their private meeting with the new Town Manager, Paul Bockelman. They said he was a good listener and wants feedback.
4. **Scheduling and Planning of Town Meeting Events:** The Zoning Forum led by Planning Director Chris Brestrup will be on Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>. There may be six zoning articles. A camera man is needed, and Alan will do it. Pat will check on a location for the Precinct 1 & 3 meeting. She will also check on the availability of a UMass bus for Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> though whether we will need one is not yet clear.
5. **Town Website and Listserv:** No time to discuss.
6. **Topics Not Anticipated 48 Hours Before Meeting:** None.
7. **Scheduling of Next Meeting:** Our next meeting will be on Thursday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7 PM.

8. **Minutes:** Reviewing of minutes was postponed for lack of time.

The meeting adjourned at 5:38 PM.

Minutes submitted by Patricia Holland, Clerk.

**Documents Distributed:**

Agenda

Draft minutes for Aug. 16, 2016

TMCC Calendar 2016-2017, Sept.-Nov.